



PCAG

Perchlorate Community Advisory Group



MEETING AGENDA

Friday, November 3, 2006

2:00 – 4:00 PM

San Martin Lions Club Hall (12415 Murphy Avenue)

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Administrative Items

- A. Introductions
- B. Attendee Sign-In Sheet (Add name/contact info to get on mailing list)
- C. Open Forum (2 minutes per speaker unless otherwise allowed by the Chair)
- D. Approve October 6, 2006 meeting minutes as corrected. In section III B. we revise the last sentence to: “cleanup to background is determined to be economically infeasible” and any “Comments” section in III B. changed to “PCAG Committee Comments”.
- E. Additional Agenda Topics
- F. 2007 PCAG Meeting Dates are now available

III. Presentations/Discussions

- A. Santa Clara County Agricultural Commissioner Update (Greg Van Wassenhove)
Monitoring that will continue to occur has been put together in a fact sheet. Greg is asking PCAG for feedback on 3 areas:
 - Would a Fact Sheet helpful?
 - How much information should it include? History, bottle water vs. cleanup.
 - Best way to distribute?

Sylvia – You want to make sure that the community knows who to contact or where they can get information. Start with what you have heard asked the most.

Peter – The question he gets most is, “Okay, bottled water has been cut-off, should have been?” Maybe a simplified statement of where they fit into the spectrum with an explanation of what that means. Keep it simple, but don’t go into the history since we have given out so much history already.

Sylvia – Is there an easier way for people to find out the information.

Swanee – People that have had their wells tested and feel that they were cut-off unfairly, should have a contact or links to PCAG, SMNA, RWQCB, State to be able to address their concerns.

Sylvia – Need to be careful not to send out alarm or panic. The fact sheet needs to be in an identified area.

Tom – Agrees that it should be selective.

Thea – Clarified that all the people who have had bottled water termination have received letters from RWQCB with contact information. More to explain exactly who is getting bottled water, why they are receiving it and what criteria is being used. It would let them understand what clean-up involves and the difference between replacement water and

Sylvia – Some community members have expressed that going with a different bottled water provider would be cheaper. Maybe the fact sheet could include other providers they could contact to continue their water or even labs if they are not satisfied with the lab results.

Craig – recommended using only the list that includes companies that are accredited with the State

Thea – Everyone is saying they pay a different rate.

Discussion on the various factors that could be involved in determining rate: number of people in the household, household vs. agricultural usage, monthly vs. once in awhile.

Terry – the fact sheet should identify the agency that people can go to for the most accurate answer to their specific areas in question.

Hector – We want to be able to help as much as we can. We would like to where to send people's calls to give them the most effective agency.

Terry – How many calls do you get?

Thea – 80 in the last couple of months.

Tom – The District gets 1-5 phone calls a week

Sylvia – 1-5 phone calls a week. She said our membership is about 50/50. There are many areas that could be addressed:

For your fact sheet we should identify what phone numbers agencies want to provide the community – should be addressed to the agencies directly.

Why the different numbers are given should be addressed.

Agencies they can address for health issues should also be addressed.

Somehow need to let them know what results for their wells.

Are they supposed to receive bottled water or not.

Is the well going to continue to be monitored and how often.

People have to see things over and over again before it is absorbed.

Public Question: What happens after your bottled water is terminated?

Thea - Olin gets the result and confirms that the number is valid – the bottled water should be reinstated immediately. If it isn't done, it should be addressed with RWQCB.

Sylvia – Is Olin terminating bottled water prior to getting the sample data results from the lab?

Thea – It could be between 8-10 weeks after sample is collected before the water is reinstated.

Public Comment – People are not getting their results back.

Thea – Olin wasn't getting their results for 6-8 weeks due to lab and QA/QC (analytical work) done prior to getting back to the public. Because not so many samples are being submitted to the labs it should take less time for Olin to get back to people.

Sylvia – If Olin has taken a sample and it's the 4th one and right after send a letter based on the last test, how can they do it sooner than 6-8 weeks if

Thea/Hector – Olin receives the preliminary report 2-3 weeks after

Sylvia – is the preliminary data the factor that determines when the letter gets sent out

Thea/Hector – Olin sees that data and just is waiting for the QA/QC to verify their data is correct

Sylvia – Is there a map that is easily accessible by the public to determine for drilling or other purposes

Peter/Thea – No, not since 9/11 due to confidentiality rules.

Thea – The quarterly monitoring reports show all the well locations/well id numbers/ tables and the well id #s with the data and are posted on the website or in their library.

Sylva – Yes, but is is accessible to the public.

Peter – How long (per the order) that Olin must send the final data information to the people whose wells have been sampled.

Thea – It 's mostly between Olin and the well owner, and not specified in the RWQCB orders.

Swanee – One of the technically outreach summaries has some items that could be used such as: a citizens guide to attenuation, reverse osmosis

Greg – Just trying to find another avenue

Public Comment – if the report is over 1000 pages, people aren't going to read them.

Greg – It would be helpful if the public or community has questions, that they attend these kinds of public meetings

Craig – As the problem goes on for a long period of time, unless there are new issues, or unless people are personally or deeply affected, there is ebb and flow. This is why this kind of outreach is important right now.

Greg – what about making it more topical.

Sylvia - Newsletter type of approach and make it topical. Get out through the Post Office, grocery stores, realtors, public libraries, involve churches, - resend every six months or so. The idea of a newsletter of sorts may not be a bad idea.

Peter/Terry – Since it is a select group – those with affected wells/or bottled water/terminated bottled water, unless it is mailed, it may not be read.

Sylvia – since the plume is moving, it should be done in other ways to reach a broader audience.

Swanee – Agreed that other

Terry – Does the City of Morgan Hill get any calls

Jim Ashcroft, City of Morgan Hill – Usually only 1 or 2 a week and only in response to news articles people have read.

Bob – Are there pamphlets or other areas that the City uses to get information out.

Jim – No.

Bob – Since many do not have access to computers, there should be other ways to get information out.

RWQCB - Hector – Feasibility Report due 12/6 and a clean-up work plan for area 1 also due 12/6, plume migration feasibility study – also due 12/6

Bob – Do you receive the results of the ongoing testing? Folks are at different times for the start of their quarters. Do you see a trend of going up/down in various zones.

Hector – have not seen any significant changes in the most recent quarters. The concentrations seem to be fairly stable. Whether we see the data before affected well owners, does not know. He assumes it's about the same time.

Thea – if the sample results are in generally they only see the samples on a quarterly basis, trends – going up a little. Reviewing the most current monitoring report, east of site report comment letter first week of December summarizing the east of site report and the groundwater monitoring report and the 2006 groundwater monitoring report.

Swanee – Northeast groundwater flow assessment – Page 3 and 4 December 8th, 2004 13267 Order requiring investigation of the northeast flow issued to Olin. the water board rescinded the 2004 requirement for the northeast flow. Olin Progress Report #50 dated 10/10/2006.

Hector – They recently issued orders to Olin that they tasks in the 12/8/04 requirements have been satisfied, it does not mean the work is going to stop.

Thea – The order required wells, the task has been met, does not mean the work will stop.

Swanee – Do we have access to reports for the people whose wells have the Ion exchange system in place? Being tested to see if the system is working – Is PCAG getting the results.

Greg – Olin has a monitoring agreement with the people they have provided treatment system to.

They have an obligation to those people to report to them on the findings of those wells. The water being treated is below detection.

Craig – They are

Sylvia – Ion exchange is being done

Swanee – Does anyone know how much of the % the 130 million gallons of water refers to.

Greg – That amount is the majority of the water at that is at that affected site. The water has been cleaned to non-detect.

Peter – The City of San Martin has an ION exchange system that is monitored monthly.

Tom – Olin does not operate the City of San Martin.

Greg – City of Morgan Hill has that information on their website.

Jim – Total number of gallons is not on the website, all water is consumed and used

For the 2 wells that have the Ion exchange system they have the report results from DHS.

Sylvia – DHS hearing. Was not able to attend. Does anyone have any input.

Craig – 3rd hand – colleague took time to listen to the briefing. Some of the Statewide environmental groups were calling for the DHS to postpone the setting of the MCL until the PHG is finalized. It can't be lower than the PHG. But there are other areas where the MCL could be very useful. The moment REHA resets the PHG, swiftly reset the MCL. Set the MCL now, but set it at 2 pbb.

Sylvia – Also 3rd hand, after the CDC report we felt that PHG should be lower than the MCL. At any rate get it through as 6pbb (quickly) In prior reports, because we don't have an MCL, olin talks about other numbers, (11, 24 in the last feas report), we don't know how long it will take. We feel it would be better to set it at 6pbb since current research is sufficient enough to open up their analysis to set the MCL. Until such time that OEHA is able to set the MCL lower.

Mr. Peekma – Questions regarding the analytical results and the variability. Mr. Peekma discussed his table that depicts the analytical breakdown of typical drinking water. His article, "What is Typical Drinking Water?" was distributed for the discussion.

Tom – Tracy representing group in a Groundwater Guardian conference. He will defer to Tracy's report when she returns.

Ion-Exchange Certification Update – Siemens has bought out US Filter? - There has been a few transmittals and responses regarding regulations

Background Source Study – Vendor has been selected Expected finalization is first quarter of 2008.

Background Recharge Project – Church ponds – increasing recharge can have affect on Perchlorate in these wells. Hoping that the wedge of clean water can possible help in the buffer for the Municipal water system in Morgan Hill. Feasibility Study will help determine how much this will help.

Engineering feasibility and acceptable beneficial impacts on perchlorate that will also not harm the fish and wildlife. Is there a non-zero background for the Lags/Subbasin. There are places where Perchlorate occurs naturally. There is perchlorate in rocks and minerals and rainfall/snowfall. A question on naturally occurring or other source – possibly imported fertilizer from Chile which has been used as a fertilizer for different kinds of crops. Chlorate has been used as a pesticide = perchlorate is a byproduct. Source study will determine whether we can separate different manmade sources as well as determining whether there is naturally occurring perchlorate. Locus Technologies is well know for Superfund sites in Santa Clara Valley and has been selected competitively to do sampling from know perchlorate wells, as well as some the wells in the Northeast area as well as the southern end of the plume.

Future projects: State ? assistance grants – Finding matching funds from non-federal funds. 45% match, need approximately 3 million. Tennant well and northern park well and san pedro well all have 4ppb perchlorate, which the City of Morgan Hill has deemed the threshold for Municipal wellhead clean-up. Last month pres bush signed the Heritage Act which has included authorization for Congress to fund Perchlorate clean-up. Also called an appropriations bill that will take one more step towards obtaining funding possibly retroactively. Reverse Osmosis treatment options. Expected completion of study is end of 2007.

IV. Additional Topics (as time allows)

- A. Ion-Exchange Certification Update (Tracy Hemmeter)
- B. Groundwater Guardian (Tracy)
- C. Perchlorate Working Group (Tracy)
- D. Water District Grant-Funded Projects (Tracy)

V. PCAG Meeting – Friday, December 8, 2006, 2:00 – 4:00 PM – CANCELLED –

VI. Next Meeting February, 2, 2007, 2:00 – 4:00 PM

Suggested Agenda Topics?

VII. Adjourn / Hall Cleanup

Repositories: Morgan Hill Library (Hardcopy); Gavilan College – Morgan Hill Branch (CD's & assistance)

Websites: www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/ & www.smneighbor.org & www.valleywater.org

COMMENT: If you cannot attend, please notify Sylvia at sylviaLRS@hotmail.com or (408) 683-2667